

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Data streams are generally selected according to user preferences and transmitted to the user in general alignment with expressed preferences of the user. Such data streams may be audio, video, or other works, such as popular music or the like, or other works, including music videos. Using a large database on the order of tens or hundreds of thousands of songs, users may indicate their general or specific preferences with regards to song, artists, or albums. Other users, particularly ones who access the system often, can act as influencers or controllers of the music transmitted to the user. Any other aspects or factors that might affect the user's preferences can be taken into account, such as popular radio stations in the United States or anywhere in the world. A playlist is created that combines all of these factors, as well as any applicable statutory regulations. The playlist then serves as the basis for feeding the data streams to the user, who is then able to enjoy music generally of his or her choosing, while additionally being exposed to new music (if the user so prefers). An Internet radio is thus established using the expansive and diverse abilities present in the Internet. Each user is able to express his or her own preferences and receive music corresponding to those preferences on an on-going basis. Every individual then is like the manager of his or her own radio station and may broadcast to him- or herself the music that parallels his or her tastes. Other users may also choose to hear the same playlist as another individual, or allow that individual to influence their playlist.